

5

AMPLIFICATION OF *CYP24* AND USES THEREOF**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

This invention pertains to the discovery that an amplification of the *CYP24* gene or an increase in *CYP24* activity is a marker for the presence of, progression of, or predisposition to, a cancer (*e.g.*, breast cancer). Using this information, this invention provides methods of detecting a predisposition to cancer in an animal. The methods involve (i) providing a biological sample from an animal (*e.g.* a human patient); (ii) detecting the level of *CYP24* within the biological sample; and (iii) comparing the level of *CYP24* with a level of *CYP24* in a control sample taken from a normal, cancer-free tissue where an increased level of *CYP24* in the biological sample compared to the level of *CYP24* in the control sample indicates the presence of said cancer in said animal.

20

25

30

File: ::ODMA\PCDOCS\SF\209319\1
Last saved: 04/02/99 12:48 PM